To conjugate an -ER verb in the present tense, remove the infinitive ending and then add the appropriate endings. For example, here are the present tense conjugations for the regular -ER verbs *parler* (to speak), *donner* (to give), and *visiter* (to visit):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Pronoun](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/ss/subjectpronouns.htm) | Ending | [*parler*](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/parler.htm) > *parl-* | [*donner*](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/donner.htm) > *donn-* | [*visiter*](http://french.about.com/od/verb_conjugations/a/visiter.htm) > *visit-* |  |
| je | -e | parle | donne | visite |  |
| tu | -es | parles | donnes | visites |  |
| il | -e | parle | donne | visite |  |
| nous | -ons | parlons | donnons | visitons |  |
| vous | -ez | parlez | donnez | visitez |  |
| ils | -ent | parlent | donnent | visitent |  |
|  | | | | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **aimer** to like, to love | **laver** to wash |
| [**arriver** to arrive, to happen](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/arriver.htm) | **manger**\* to eat |
| **chanter** to sing | **nager**\* to swim |
| [**chercher** to look for](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/chercher.htm) | **parler** to talk, to speak |
| **commencer**\* to begin | [**passer** to pass, spend (time)](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/passer.htm) |
| **danser** to dance | [**penser** to think](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/penser.htm) |
| **demander** to ask for | **porter** to wear, to carry |
| **dépenser** to spend (money) | **regarder** to watch, to look at |
| **détester** to hate | **rêver** to dream |
| **donner** to give | [**sembler** to seem](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/sembler.htm) |
| **écouter** to listen to | **skier** to ski |
| **étudier** to study | **travailler** to work |
| **fermer** to close | **trouver** to find |
| **goûter** to taste | **visiter** to visit (a place) |
| [**jouer** to play](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/jouer.htm) | **voler** to fly, to steal |
| **\* spelling change in the nous form – for -ger add an –e before *ons,* for –cer, add a ç before *-ons*** | |

To form the past participle of a regular –er verb, drop the –er and add an *é*.

To form the passé composé, you need to conjugate the present tense of an auxiliary verb (avoir or être) and tack on the past participle at the end.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Pronoun](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/ss/subjectpronouns.htm) | aux. verb | past participle |  |
| j’ | ai | travaillé |  |
| tu | as | travaillé |  |
| il | a | travaillé |  |
| nous | avons | travaillé |  |
| vous | avez | travaillé |  |
| ils | ont | travaillé |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
| **aimer →** aimé | liked, loved | **laver** **→** lavé | washed |
| \* [**arriver**](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/arriver.htm) **→** arrivé | arrived, happened | **manger** **→**  mangé | ate |
| **chanter** **→** chanté | sang | **nager** **→**  nagé | swam |
| [**chercher** **→**](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/chercher.htm) cherché | looked for | **parler** **→** parlé | talked, to spoke |
| **commencer →** commencé | began | \* [**passer** **→**](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/passer.htm)  passé | passed, spent (time) |
| **danser** **→** dansé | danced | [**penser** **→**](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/penser.htm)  pensé | thought |
| **demander** **→** demandé | asked for | **porter** **→** porté | wore, carried |
| **dépenser** **→** dépensé | spent (money) | **regarder** **→** regardé | watched, looked at |
| **détester** **→** détesté | hated | **rêver** **→** rêvé | dreamt |
| **donner** **→** donné | gave | [**sembler**](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/sembler.htm) **→** semblé | seemed |
| **écouter** **→** écouté | listened to | **skier** **→** skié | skied |
| **étudier** **→** étudié | studied | **travailler** **→** travaillé | worked |
| **fermer** **→** fermé | closed | **trouver** **→** trouvé | found |
| **goûter** **→** goûté | tasted | **visiter** **→** visité | visited (a place) |
| [**jouer →**](http://french.about.com/od/grammar/a/jouer.htm)  joué | played | **voler** **→**  volé | flew, stole |
| **\*** auxiliary verb is être | | | |